

1. (Twice Amended) An applicator for surgical clips having an upper jaw member and a lower jaw member with co-operating locking means when in a closed position, the applicator comprising:

a barrel portion constructed and arranged to be operatively attached to a handle, said barrel portion including an inner member and an outer member, said inner and outer members being slidable relative to each other, said inner member and said outer member further being shaped to retain at least one surgical clip, and including co-operating distal surfaces;

wherein as said handle operates to slide said inner member relative to said outer member a surgical clip is forced from an open to a closed position by a compressed force, orthogonal to the direction of sliding, between said outer member and said inner member, said force being sufficient to compress said upper jaw member and to cause said upper jaw member to lock into engagement with said lower jaw member.

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2. (Twice Amended) The applicator for surgical clips as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said outer member comprises an elongate tube shaped at an end distal from said handle to retain said surgical clip.

3. (Twice Amended) The applicator for surgical clips as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the shape of said distal end of said outer member comprises an angled sloping platform constructed and arranged to support the surgical clip, said sloping platform also comprising a raised flange forming a surgical clip stop member.

4. (Twice Amended) The applicator for surgical clips as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said inner member comprises an elongate inner member, said elongate inner member including a storage member constructed and arranged to store a multiplicity of surgical clips.

5. (Twice Amended) The applicator for surgical clips as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising an inducing member constructed and arranged to index said multiplicity of surgical clips down said inner member.

6. (Twice Amended) The applicator for surgical clips as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said elongate inner member includes a stop member constructed and arranged to provide opposing mechanical forces which oppose forces on the surgical clip by said outer member to create closure of the clip.

B 7. (Twice Amended) A magazine storage system for an applicator for surgical clips having an upper jaw member and a lower jaw member with co-operating locking means when in a closed position, the magazine storage system comprising:

a barrel portion including an attachment member at a proximal end constructed and arranged to attach said barrel portion to a handle, said barrel portion further comprising:

a) a plurality of surgical clips stored in a single column array within said barrel portion; and

b) an inner member and an outer member, slideable relative to each other, said inner member and said outer member further being shaped to retain said plurality of surgical clips, and said inner and outer member each having at a distal end co-operating surfaces shaped to cause each of said surgical clips to be forced from an open to a closed position when said inner and outer members are slid relative to each other, said sliding motion creating a compressed force, orthogonal to said direction of sliding, between said outer member and said inner member sufficient to compress said upper jaw member of each surgical clip and to cause said upper jaw member to lock into engagement with said lower jaw member.

8. (Twice Amended) The magazine storage system for an applicator as claimed in claim 7, further including a biasing member positioned within said inner member, said biasing member

being operative to urge said plurality of surgical clips from said proximal end to a distal end of the barrel portion.

9. (Twice Amended) The magazine storage system for an applicator as claimed in claim 8, wherein a distal end of said outer member includes a ledge shaped stop member constructed and arranged to arrest movement of said plurality of surgical clips, and wherein said ledge shaped stop member provides an end stop to effect closure of each of said clips, when said outer member is moved relative to said inner member.

B 10. (Twice Amended) The magazine storage system for an applicator for surgical clips as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a ratchet stop member disposed in said inner member, said ratchet stop member being positioned between said biasing member and said plurality of surgical clips, said ratchet stop member being moveable by said biasing member in a direction from said proximal to said distal end of said elongate tube, said ratchet stop member being cooperative with a corresponding ratchet member disposed on said inner member to dissuade movement in the opposite direction.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment. By the present Amendment, claims 1-10 have been amended. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by this Amendment.

The claims have been amended to better conform to U.S. practice. These amendments are not considered to narrow the scope of the claims.

Compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.125

A substitute specification, excluding claims, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(b) is submitted herewith. Applicant states that all amendments to the specification have been made to place the specification in U.S. format, including inserting headings and subheadings, correcting spelling,